

**Tuesday, September 30, 2003**

## Leesburg Electric System: Making Our Lives More Powerful!

Since the advent of the electric utility industry more than 120 years ago, electricity has become essential to the American way of life. We count on electricity to be there for us when we need it – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. City of Leesburg Electric is one of the nation's more than 2,000 "public power" systems delivering on our promise to "keep the lights on."

Leesburg Electric was created as a community-owned, hometown enterprise. Operated by local governments, our goal is to provide electricity as a public service in a caring, yet business-like manner, and at a reasonable cost. We are committed to exceeding the expectations of our customers, who are also our family members, neighbors and friends.

Public power systems provide many hometown advantages:

- We are driven by public service, not profit.
- We exist to serve our fellow citizens, friends and neighbors. Our loyalty is to our customers – not to trying to push up profits for out-of-town shareholders.
- We help to make Lake County a good place to live and work.
- We involve everyone in decisions, with a policy board that has regular open meetings on the second and fourth Mondays at 5:30 P.M. at Leesburg City Hall.
- We are accountable to citizens – not to a board of directors in a distant city or state.

We often take electricity for granted. But when the blackout occurred in the northeast and communities lost power for more than 24 hours, we saw just how important electric power really is. Luckily, electric utilities in Florida have limited ties to the national power grid, and thus have a lower risk of a similar situation happening here. Still, the blackout has created renewed attention on the need for a national energy policy, and Leesburg is working closely with public power utilities around the country to ensure that the needs of our local citizens are addressed.

Please join us to celebrate Public Power Week, October 5-11, an annual event for the nation's more than 2,000 community-owned electric utilities. We celebrate because City of Leesburg Electric has been making lives in Lake County more powerful.

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